

MAR 13 2015

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE HAWAII  
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's farms and farmers reflect the heritage  
2 and diversity of many cultures and people and are the  
3 cornerstones of the State's goals for food security,  
4 sustainability, and self-sufficiency; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution mandates the  
7 preservation and protection of agricultural resources; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, the number of small farms in Hawaii has grown  
10 substantially during the last ten years, shifting the  
11 agricultural landscape from plantations to smaller farms with  
12 diverse cropping and marketing systems; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, there is a renewed interest in planting school  
15 gardens and enabling children to eat and enjoy food grown on  
16 campus; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, these trends are creating new local food sources  
19 and increased employment, which necessitate the development of  
20 science-based good agricultural practices and risk-reducing  
21 guidelines to prevent potential food product contamination; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, at the national level, the Food and Safety  
24 Modernization Act of 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug  
25 Administration to develop science- and risk-based criteria for  
26 preventing food-borne illnesses and encourages states to  
27 establish similar intrastate criteria for the safe production,  
28 distribution, and consumer handling of food; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, due to economic thresholds, the Food Safety  
31 Modernization Act only covers twenty-one percent of produce  
32 farms in the United States, and oversight will not come to  
33 Hawaii until 2017 or 2018, and even then will not cover the full  
34 range of behaviors that are covered by a solid good agricultural  
35 practices program; and  
36



1 WHEREAS, good agricultural practices programs established  
2 elsewhere, including Georgia-GAPs, CanadaGAPs, KenyaGAPs, and  
3 ThaiGAPs, and the United States Department of Agriculture  
4 Agricultural Marketing Service's Harmonized Audit provide risk-  
5 reducing practices including on-farm and packing-shed best  
6 practices for human hygiene, pest and on-farm animal management,  
7 field management, use of pesticide, fertilizer, and soil  
8 amendment, water quality for irrigation and produce rinse,  
9 packing-shed operations and maintenance, and product traceback;  
10 and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has auditors  
13 trained in good agricultural practices and an existing auditing  
14 rate structure that is the least expensive in the nation; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has a  
17 successful history of agricultural oversight; now, therefore,

18  
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
21 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish a  
22 Hawaii good agricultural practices program for farms growing  
23 local agricultural food products; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii good agricultural  
26 practices program:

- 27 (1) Develop science- and risk- based good agricultural  
28 practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-  
29 farm food-borne illness and include, as appropriate,  
30 specific considerations and methodologies for farm  
31 sizes, practices, techniques, materials, and crops;
- 32 (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train  
33 Hawaii farmers to learn and implement good  
34 agricultural practices in a cost-effective and  
35 efficient manner;
- 36 (3) Provide procedures for the voluntary verification of  
37 on-farm implementation of good agricultural practices  
38 and the subsequent issuance of state compliance  
39 certification; and



# S.R. NO. 82

(4) Develop a consumer information program for publication and broadcast to teach home practices for the treatment and handling of fresh and processed agricultural food products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture consult as necessary with the Department of Health, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and other state and federal agencies to develop and implement the Hawaii good agricultural practices program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

*[Signature]* *[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
Enzanne Chun Amed  
Bruce Hunt  
Mike Gabb  
~~Don~~ D.C. Richards  
Ed Rivers  
Wayne Thiel  
James Sullivan  
*[Signature]*

